

Interview with Tyyme Ostlund, Ishpeming, Michigan, July 23, 1994. Topic of interview her student life and involvement in Northern Michigan University.

RMM: We'll get started just talking as you are, if you want to sit back, and I'd like to start with, if you don't mind, your birth date.

TO: My birth date February 22, 1909.

RMM: Could you tell us a little about if you want, depending on how far you want to go back, a little about growing up in Ishpeming and something about your family, your family background. And then ultimately how you got down to Northern.

TO: I came of a big family, there were twelve of us. And we lived in the country, north of Ishpeming. And went to school to a little country school. There were about eight students all different grades. I always loved school. And it was hard for my folks to have us come to high school because they'd have to pay our board and room. But my older brother did come to Ishpeming. He graduated, and went to Northern for just a short while. Enough so that he could teach at a country school. And then I went and some nice well to do people in Ishpeming told my dad that I could come and live at their house and work for my room and board. So I did, The Brastics. They used to have a big department store in Ishpeming. And so I was happy to go there. They were so good to me. And I'd ask Mrs. Brastic, she was old, she was a Norwegian she really spoke with an accent, and I said, "what shall I do," because I haven't done very much. I was supposed to be working for my room and board. She said, "No, Tyyme," she called me Tyyme all of the time, she said, "No, Tyyme, I want you to get good marks at school." They were just wonderful to me. So I lived with them until I graduated from high school. And I finished my high school in three years, because I was older when I went. I couldn't get to school right away because we lived way out North of Ishpeming. And my folks couldn't afford to board me out.

RMM: Was there a place that you lived, or just living out in the country?

TO: They called it Fire Center, it's over by Dead River, North of Ishpeming.

RMM: What did your father do?

TO: He, we had a farm, but he was really more interested in lumber. He had men working for him in the woods.

RMM: What was your maiden name?

TO: Kauppila.

RMM: And your father was from Finland?

TO: My father's name everybody called him Frank but it was really Franz. Or Frans I think he spelled it.

RMM: So this was something very special to be able to come to high school

TO: Oh was it ever, because I used to cry because I couldn't go. I was out of school for six years before I went to high school. And was older and I was ashamed when I came to high school I felt like just someone all alone, you know, in all this. Because I was older, but I was so small that people would say Tyyme you shouldn't feel different you're so small nobody knows you're older than they are. And well anyway, I stuck it through and I graduated in three years.

RMM: And that was what year that you graduated?

TO: 1937.

RMM: Then how did you get involved, or how did you get down to Northern?

TO: Well these, my folks knew that I wanted so badly to go to school and my folks knew a family in town who had a daughter who graduated when I did and they wanted her to go to Northern. So her mother told my mother let Tyyme go to school so Audry will go to. And they can go together. So then I stayed at their, I lived at their house, and we went to school together then to Northern. We had a ride, of course.

RMM: So you lived in Ishpeming?

TO: In Ishpeming.

RMM: And stayed with this family. What was their name?

TO: Their name was Poppila. I can't remember the father's name; he had died kind of young. I don't remember the name.

RMM: And how did you down, when you commuted, how did you

TO: Commuted, different people.

RMM: Did you go by car?

TO: Yes.

RMM: And so kind of a car pool?

TO: Yes. A car pool. There used to be, usually we were a car pool of kids that went.

RMM: So you enrolled in Northern, and what did you plan to major in?

TO: I wanted to major in Art, but I knew that there weren't a lot of art jobs available. So I guess maybe someone told me, why don't you take early elementary, because that's where most of the grades, or jobs were available at the time. And most of them were down state it seemed. So, I was all set to go down state, and I took early elementary. But I think the first year I was taking it, we had to take one course in art for an early elementary certificate and Ms. Spalding, I got to know Ms. Spalding and she said, "Tyyme, I don't want you to be in that, I want you to take art." And I said, "Yes, but I got to find a job, and there aren't so many jobs." She said, "Oh well, we'll see. You better switch to art." So I did. Because she was like my mother. She was just wonderful and I said, "OK, then I'll switch to art." So I did.

RMM: Could you tell us a little more about her personality?

TO: Her personality?

RMM: Yes.

TO: She was very dignified. But she was very strict, very strict. And when she said something, you did that. But she was so good to me, honestly. And she used to live with Ms. Carey the Dean of Women. And they were both so nice to me. I remember one time in the auditorium, we used to study in the big auditorium, and I was there studying and all of a sudden Ms. Carey was over on the other side with Ms. Spalding and she came over and said, "Tyyme come over here, we want to talk to you." So I went over and that's when she wrote me into art. And she said, we want you to come and go to school in art. I thought "well, I guess they know better than I do. And they think I can do it." So I switched to art then.

RMM: Could you tell me a little about, while we're talking about her, about Ms. Carey her personality disposition?

TO: Yes, she was a darling. Both of them were very refined. And she was pretty. Ms. Carey was quite pretty. I have an old cabogan I could show you after, and Ms. Spalding was older. She had white hair and she was very dignified, refined. And they were both very, very nice. And they lived together. And they were so good to me, both of them. I don't know why. Maybe because I studied hard. I don't know. But they really were good to me.

RMM: Ms. Carey was the Dean of Women. Do you remember some of the rules and regulation that she had or something about how she

TO: Right off hand I can't think of anything. All I know is we were supposed to obey whatever it was. She was, I think she was

pretty strict, so was Ms. Spalding. But very, very nice. If you did your share, they were fair.

RMM: Now what was conditions at Northern like when you were going to school. This was kind of at the time of the depression. Did you feel any of that, any of the problems of the depression, lack of money and jobs.

TO: Oh yes, I think so. And the top post in my mind was am I going to get a job when I finish. Because it was hard enough for me to go to school, and then to think gee, I don't know if there is any job for me. But it was a strange thing. I said the Lord leads us. It was the funniest thing. The week, I don't know if it was the week or the month, before, I don't think it was a month before, September, and low and behold a grammar school job was opening here, and I was, they were always nice to me at school. I graduated high school with three years. And I worked real hard because I was older. And when I found that out, I went to Mr. Felps right away, he was superintendent of schools, a real dignified old educator, very strict. And I went him and talked with him and he said, "Yes, we'll see if you can get the job." And I did, I got that job at the grammar school. And I taught there for three years, and then I was promoted to the high school. And low and behold I was at the high school for thirty years.

RMM: Now did you teach art?

TO: Yes, at the grammar school I had a class of history and art. There were 350 kids there, I saw them every week.

RMM: Was this in Ishpeming High School?

TO: This was at the grammar school, that was pre-high school, 7th and 8th grade. Then after three years, the high school job was open and they gave me the job over there. And so I was there then for 30 years.

RMM: When you were at Northern do you remember some of your instructors? That you had had?

TO: Mr. Copper. I had Mr. Copper for phsycology, Mr. Spooner for arithmetic. And I should know lots of them, I can't think. Who was my English teacher? Isn't that awful, I can't remember. I wonder if I should get my book.

RMM: Maybe, yea, I think that would be good, we could kind of look through it.

We left off talking about some of the teachers. Could we go back to Ms. Spalding, could you tell us a little about her teaching methods and some of the things that might have happened in the classroom, when you were a student?

TO: I don't know, what might have happened, but my impression is that she was a very strict teacher and she was kind though. I was her student assistant. And she was like a mother to me. And she'd call from the inner office "Tyyme come here" you know like I said, and you'd do whatever she told you to do. And I learned more from being her student than in her class even. She was always teaching. She came over here with Ms. Carey, she was sitting over there and all of a sudden, she had a piece of paper and pencil and she was doing some scribbling on it, and she said, "Tyyme come here!" That's the way she bossed me you know. So I went and sat by her; she said, "Now look at this, this is a composition." And she was teaching me composition on that little piece of paper and drawing, how you start a picture you know. All of a sudden, she'd do things like that. She was always teaching me something.

RMM: Could you relate for the tape about the clouds, when she called you in the office and talked about the color of the clouds?

TO: Well, she said, "Tyyme, come here. Now look at that east sky. Do you see those colors?" I said, "Yes." She said, "Do you realize there is a complimentary colors of the ones on the west sky." So they were the cool colors and they were the warm colors. And we used to study warm colors and cool colors, and used them in our paintings. But any little thing that might get her going, she would teach a lesson. She was interesting, I just loved her. She was just wonderful.

RMM: Are there any other examples of her teaching methods like that, that you remember?

TO: Well, I can't think of any specific things. She'd help us in the class room, you know, the office if you know Northern, there's that office over there on the east side and then there is a big class room and she would be in that office when she wasn't teaching. But like that one day when she called me Tyyme come here and I had to go and tell her about the colors in the sky. Any little thing that would get her going on a subject I think she took advantage of that.

RMM: Were there any other teachers in the, who else was in the art and design, or the art department at that time?

TO: I can't remember, she was a young teacher. She was even in one of my classes, the one time. What was her name? I can't think now. She was a young women.

RMM: So then, Ms. Spalding was the only teacher.

TO: She was my only teacher really. I think the other one used to, I don't think I ever took a class from her though, I don't remember. But she was there.

RMM: Now you said earlier that Ms. Spalding taught History?

TO: History of art.

RMM: History of art. OK, was that one course or two courses, do you remember?

TO: Yes, I don't think she had really any more than that. And she gave me a book, it's one of my favorite books, I should show it to you. And she taught in Italy, or she went to school, one or the other. She was there for six years I think, in Italy. And she'd always tell me, Tyyme, when you go, she never said if you go to Italy, you're going to see this and this and so naturally when I went I'd feel, one night I just felt like she was walking with me. She'd say, "you're going to see this when you go." And she'd never say if. It impressed me because she said when instead of if. So I thought I guess I better go there one of these days. She was just great and I was so anxious to learn. I loved school and I loved art. And anything that I could gobble up, I would. I can remember walking that night in Florence and I just felt like she's with me.

RMM: What were some of the courses with Ms. Spalding?

TO: I'll show you my notebook. Cause we had a deep appreciation for painting and architecture, and design. This is on architecture, this is what we had to do in her class. We had a Bible print and then she would paste them in there and write about them.

RMM: So these were like outside of class projects...

TO: Yes. And then we discussed them. And this one is on painting, that's from architecture.

RMM: So you had to do some background work then when you went into class, this is the Art History class. Then you went into class and discussed this and she asked you questions.

TO: That's right. And then we would have to work on these. And I didn't type so I had to write everything.

RMM: You have very nice hand writing. then you were able to use these when you were a teacher.....

TO: Yes, when I was teaching I used them no wonder there ragged. I used to teach art appreciation to my kids in the fall and then after Christmas we would start our actually painting and drawing and whatever. We did some drawing of course, you couldn't just have book work all the time with art with high school kids.

RMM: So did she then... Ms. Spalding taught you art appreciation and theory and the studies.... and so on.

TO: Yeah, all of it is in those books.

RMM: So it wasn't just kind of hands on make little art and craft...

TO: We did a lot of book work in her class.

RMM: You sort of got down the theory of art and the art appreciation.

TO: Yes.

RMM: I guess... You left Northern then, you didn't spend much time there you just went down there for classes and then left....

TO: Yes, because I traveled from home. I didn't think it was too bad though. I would have liked to spend some time you know, but when the ride went I had to go. But anyway I think it worked out okay.

RMM: Did you have any exciting trips during the winter time? When you came?

TO: Yes, we got stuck on the way in the snow one time. Not too bad but once they sent us home from school because there was a terrible storm. And when we came it was over there where Wal-Mart around that area. All you saw was white practically, we were stuck there. Oh, I could write a book about those trips we had some time.

RMM: Why don't you talk a little about them.

TO: Well, we would have a car load of people, we were young and laugh about it. And wonder how far we going to get. There were too many times when it was that bad but I remember that one time it was just awful. We were stuck there for I don't know how long we were stuck there, I can't remember. But it was quite exciting sometimes.

RMM: Do you remember some of the other professor's there was a fellow Lou Allan Chase in the history department.

TO: Oh yeah, I was scared of him.

RMM: Were you?

TO: Oh!

RMM: Why?

TO: Well because he was so strict and he had pipe sight. He only seen straight ahead, and boy you would get out of his way when he came. He come sometimes practically right at you, you know and you would get out of the way because he couldn't see

you. And I took political science and I hate it and he had our names on cards in his pocket like this. And his hands were always in his pockets he was feeling those brail cards and he'd call out a name, he would read it off his card I suppose. And then he would call it and we were always scared he'd call on us. And I remember there was another girl I knew real well from Ishpeming we used to travel together. She sat right next to me and every time, very time her name was Toppula and mine was Kappiula, but they would say Kapula.

So one day she asked her when he called me I said "your're not supposed to answer now." and she answered she thought he said Toppula. Oh it was crazy in that class. And we were scared stiff that he would be feeling in his pocket thinking now I wonder who is going to call on. I was afraid of him, I wanted to get good marks and I thought I'll never know what he wants as an answer. He was strict but he was a good teacher. But I think of it afterwards all the packs in history and I love history. Of course this was political science so it was a little different then history but.. Quite a character.

RMM: And then you said you had Spooner.

TO: Yes, for arithmetic. You had to take arithmetic and I never liked arithmetic. When I was in grade school I used to hate arithmetic but I liked history and literature. And my sister Alice she loved arithmetic and we'd always talk about it cause that was great for her and I couldn't stand it. Then I had to take arithmetic from Mr. Spooner of all people. Well anyway I got through alright.

RMM: What was he like as a teacher?

TO: Well he was serious. He never talked like in some classes a teacher might joke like Mr. Myland would joke sometime, but he was always so strict. I was scared of him because I was timid, I was always very, very timid. And I always thought, "I wonder what is going to happen today in that class." I hated to go there.

RMM: Now you said that you had Mr. Myland...

TO: Yeah, I liked him.

RMM: What was he like...

TO: He was nice, he was easy going. What I remember about him, he'd sit on the table with his legs dangling on the side and he would talk about you know the literature we were taking. I took, we had to take composition and reading. And there were three of those courses 1,2, and 3 I took all of them from him that's what he used to teach. Because I minored in history and english. Yeah, I minored in those and majored in art education. So I like history and english, I've always really.. I've got books all over the place I'm always reading literature and history if I find



something interesting.

RMM: Now who were some of the other history teachers there that you remember?

TO: Well Mr. Copper taught the psychology... Mr. Ebersol

RMM: Mr. Ebersol, yes.

TO: He taught history, he was a funny one. He'd always wiggle his nose or something and we used to laugh at him. He was nice I wasn't scared to go in his class, but I was scared to go into Mr. Chaset's class. I thought "I wonder if I know my lesson well enough."

RMM: And did you?

TO: I think so, I did pretty well at Northern yeah, yeah. I think I had mostly B's and A's, if I had a C I was sick to my heart. I never wanted a C neither did my mother.

RMM: Now did you think these teachers by being so strict then encouraged you to study?

TO: Oh yeah, I think so. I think it got into me a little when I was teaching. Because my kids knew when I gave a lesson I meant that they had to study it. I was pretty strict I think sometimes when I think of it now. But how are you going to study if you are not strict to some degree?

RMM: Strict I guess was more it was also challenging. It made them work.

TO: Yeah, that's right.

RMM: Now maybe we should, okay we are coming towards the end of the tape here.

RMM: Do you remember the president's of Northern or maybe just one president when you were there.

TO: Mr. Harden

RMM: Harden, that's later.

TO: There was one before him.

RMM: Pierce.

TO: Pierce.

RMM: Pierce.

TO: Yeah.

RMM: Do you remember him?

TO: A little bit not much. He wasn't there to many years when I was there. I can't remember.

RMM: Yeah.

TO: Pierce and then Harden.

RMM: You wouldn't see the president as a student .

TO: I don't think I ever was called in his office for anything.

RMM: Were some student's called to his office?

TO: I don't know, I have no idea. I doubt it, I kinda doubt it.

RMM: Yeah. (end of side one)

RMM: When you were at Northern could you tell us a little about what the classes were like, what Kaye Hall was like. Did they ever have Christmas parties, did you ever attend parties in that stairway- that foyer.

TO: No we never had a party there. We never had very many parties I don't think, and I came from Ishpeming and I missed a lot of things.

RMM: Now did they have when you were a student, did they still have assemblies in the auditorium?

TO: Yes, we had.. when I was a freshman we had an assembly every week in the auditorium.

RMM: And what would happen there? Did you have to sit in a special seat?

TO: No, we had certain speakers all the time. I don't know if they were probably other teachers or something I don't know. But we'd have a lecture usually. And everybody was expected to go to the assembly.

RMM: Did they take role to make sure you were there?

TO: I can't remember. They probably did. Because we were pretty well under their thumb, I kinda think they knew who was there and isn't.

RMM: Because at that time there wasn't that many student's.

TO: No, No.

RMM: Was it in some cases when you taught you went and you taught

in the high school. Was some of the things that went on at Northern kind of like high school? Not so much the teaching and what you learn but some of the rules and regulations?

TO: Probably. To begin with yeah I think so, sort of the same.

RMM: Did you find as you were a student; when you were a freshman and when you came out. You graduated in what year then?

TO: '37.

RMM: Oh, you graduated in '37

TO: '37, yeah.

RMM: So you were there from '30...

TO: Well I graduated from high school in '31' and then I went only summer's because i didn't have money to go. And then in 1936 I remeber Ms. Spalding and Ms. Carey sitting on the ohter side of the aisle and I was sitting over there. And they called "Tyyme come over here." so I went. When they told me to come I went. And they said you are not going back to teach at Fire Center, I said " I don't have money to go too school." Well you are going to come to school your not going there anymore, you've been there for three years and that's enough, and that's the way they talked to me. And I said " I don't have any money." They said "there is a loan, the school has a loan and you can take a loan and come to school and finish your degree." I had two more years to go. I dribbled along every summer, every summer was school for me. And so I did what they told me and I finished... I got a loan and went two years and graduated.

RMM: So what you took courses in the summer then you taught?

TO: Then I taught during the year and I saved every penny so I could have money to go pay for my room and board at school. And I went for four summer's like that.

RMM: So what year's were that?

TO: Right after '31, '32, '33, '34.

RMM: Oh I see. How were conditions you know... now you taught out at Fire Center by your families home, now did you live with your family?

TO: Yes, but my sister still lives out there.

RMM: Oh, I see. So you saved, you were able to save money...

TO: Yeah, I was able to save money. Mother knew I wanted to go too school and so did my dad so I saved everything I earned.

RMM: Your family obviously encouraged you to go to school.

TO: Yeah, I think so. My mother knew I wanted to go and I had a older brother that went to Northren. And he taught at the Fire Center School, he taught over Tork-Republic but he was in his twenties and he got TB, he died when he was 28 years old. He was a real bright fellow and that was so.. that was really sad for all of us.

RMM: Yeah.

TO: Yeah, but then I had to keep on... I am the only one that went to school except for my youngest brother graduated from Michigan Tech. He was a mining engineer.

RMM: Did he stay in the Upper Peninsula?

TO: Yeah, he is retired now.

RMM: Who did he work for?

TO: He started out at what's that place, out west from here, I can't remeber the name of the town but he was in Ishpeming most of the time. He got a job at Ishpeming and

RMM: At CCI

TO: AT CCI yes. He was real smart, after he graduated, a year or two later, they came over to get him to come to Michigan Tech for some program or something. It was one of their better students.

RMM: So how would you sum up your view of Northern when you were there and what do you think of the school over the years now?

TO: I like Northern. I don't have anything to compare it with, you know. Then after I graduated of course I went to the Art Institute for a summer.

RMM: Oh ok, could you tell us a little about that.

TO: About the art institute?

RMM: yeah.

TO: Yeah that was wonderful, I enjoyed it. The reason I went there was Mrs. Sword, she was the other art teacher at Northern and she came over one saturday, I think it was, and Aldon was here with me and she talked me into going to the art institute for the summer. I just went there in the summer. And oh I liked it, although it was kindof hard for a little country girl to go to a big city, I had to take an L every morning for school, but I did it and I enjoyed the art institute. Yeah I took color and design and painting. You got classes that were three hours long

and it was really, really something. I really enjoyed it, everytime I go to Chicago I want to go to the art institute or see the old place.

RMM: now why didn't you continue at the art institute?

TO: why didn't I?

RMM: yeah.

TO: money. It was expensive. I couldn't afford it, I really would have liked to have gone there rather than anyplace else but I went for that summer in Chicago, then I went to and took summerschool of painting in lower Michigan which wasn't affiliated with, at that time was affiliated with the Chicago art institute.

RMM: and then where did you end up, you got a masters degree?

TO: I got my masters at Michigan, because it would have been so expensive. I wanted to get it at the art institute, but it was so much more expensive because even board and room for Michigan I could stay home and they had that affiliation at Northern with Michigan at that time, so I have my degree from Michigan although I used to have my class at Marquette.

RMM: how did that affiliation work then?

TO: I liked it.

RMM: What did you do then you just took courses at Northern then?

TO: Yeah, courses that were Michigan courses, of course, they were beyond the bachelors because I got my masters that way.

RMM: did they have professors come then from Ann Arbor then?

TO: yes, every week. They had a profesor came from Ann Arbor every week. As far as I remeber and he'd teach us that lesson that week. I think every week was a different person even if I remeber correctly.

RMM: And this was, what years did you do this?

TO: Oh dear it was in the 50's I think. I finished in '58 I got my masters. I think it was 58. Isn't that awful how you forget?

RMM: Now the lessons were taught at Northern.

TO: Oh yeah the man would come from Michigan, every week we would have a different one and he would teach a class at Northern. It seems to me sometimes he would come to Ishpeming,

you know. I wonder whom I could ask, isn't that awful how you forget. It seems to me that he came to Ishpeming sometimes.

RMM: Maybe if there were enough students.

TO: we used to have a pretty well, not a full full class room but we would have quite a few that were taking the courses.

RMM: so that you found then that Northern and Mrs. Spaulding prepared you well to teach in High School then.

TO: yes, she was so strict. When she gave an assignment you had to do it from A to Z. she was very strict.

RMM: Now what would happen if you came in with poor work or if you didn't do the work? What would happen?

TO: she'd tell you about it. Yeah she was strict, and I was the kind I was timid as the dickens and I tried to do my best all the time, while I liked it anyways and I used to call her my second mother, she was like a mother to me. She was always saying things to me that were said in the classroom and I hardly ever went in the studyhall. I bet there was only a few times I was ever in the study hall or the library. Because I would do my studying at home and I would go work in her room. All the time, I was always up there.

RMM: Now when you were taking courses from her did she do any traveling to Europe?

TO: Yes, she had been in Europe. I think she was there for was it six years?

RMM: Before, but then when she was teaching she went to Europe as well?

TO: I kindof think so, but I am not sure. She would always tell me, Tymme, when you go to Europe you're going to see this and this and your going to see that. And so when I went to Italy and I thought uh-oh here I am, this is what she said.

RMM: Now what year did you go to Europe?

TO: '63, what a time it was, I enjoyed it.

RMM: Did you go to places she mentioned?

TO: I think pretty nearly, I wanted to. I just felt like she was with me. Like that one night I just felt like she was walking with me in Florence. She lived in Florence, I think it was in Florence where she was for six years. So I felt like she was there when I was there.

RMM: Now when you had her for class or when you were with her she would talk about her time in Europe and so on?

TO: Yes she would tell us in class alot of time. Then I was her student, ??? so I got a double dose of it, and that's what made me want to go. I thought I got to go there some time and I'd save all my pennies.

RMM: As a student what were some of your jobs that you had to do?

TO: I'd see that the room was picked up, I'd see that the paper was tandy, the paints were taken care of everything just kind of a clean up job was a big job for me.

RMM: Were was her classroom in these offices in Kaye Hall?

TO: In Kaye Hall it's in that top corner over there. When I sit on... What's that street?

RMM: Presque Isle?

TO: Presque Isle, I pointed to somebody I said "There's Ms. Spalding's room." in that corner up there on the third floor.

RMM: Third floor, okay.

TO: I'd be running up the steps, I was small and I'd run up the steps and she's stand at the top "Tyyme don't you run up here another time." Oh she'd yell at me she said your not allowed to run up the steps. She was always bossy but I liked her anyway.

RMM: Okay, well that's good I think that's just about all the questions I have for you. Thank you for doing the interview, I appreciate it....

TO: Your welcome.

**(interview continued)**

RMM: Were going to ask a few more questions here although we were finished. Could you tell us a little about the discipline at Ishpeming Hig School?

TO: It was strict. Mr. Phelps was a real educator. I was scared of him, he stand by his door like this like a solider. When the classes were passing you know you were scared to say hi to him or anything, but he sure had us disciplined. The teachers were disciplined as much as the kids were and I didn't mind it though because it made teaching easier. Because the children, the students when they came to a classrom they came to work.

RMM: You just mentioned earlier, you mentioned something someone said when you went to a meeting in Marquette.

TO: It was a teacher's institute or something and I don't know

who the lady was but she said "Were do you teach?" I said "I teach in Ishpeming." She said "Oh, little Alcatraz." I said "I don't know if it's that." I don't remeber exactly what I said but I said "It's a pretty nice place to teach." It was, it was easy because the kids really were nice, we didn't have problems with them. The only problem I would... last week one day I thought I must think now back those thirty years I taught at Ishpeming High School. How many bad kids I had , I couldn't think of any. I couldn't, there was only one boy who slipped, he fell asleep in class. And I thought oh, well let him sleep and the kids would look at me out of the corner of their eye to see if I saw him and they knew that I saw him. It was really cute and I let him sleep until it was time to go change classes, then I suppose the noise made him wake up. And then I had students from Northern to observe you know and they would sit in the back of the room and watch me to and fellow fell asleep. He fell asleep back there in the back of the room. And another fellow ??? Lepper he was... I thought "Oh, how sad." But they were mostly real nice though. And I had one fellow who could not teach art in high school, he could not teach art in high school. And I tried to be real nice, and he was a nice fellow. He was nice to me and I told him one day I thought "Gee I wonder what I should do with him, because he didn't get the first phase." And I said "Would you like to try teaching in first grade?" Because they had classes from kidnergarten to fifth up in the Central Schools which is attached to our high school. I siad "Would you like to go there and teach maybe first grade you might like?" He said " Yeah I'd like to try that." You know that is what fit him.

RMM: Oh.

TO: Yeah, see were not all made to teach certain age groups I guess. But it was a lesson for me even

RMM: Who was the instructor at Northern that was working with the schools?

TO: When I was... Ms. Spalding and Ms. Ward..

RMM: They were...

TO: They were the two.

RMM: I see. Then this was back in very early.

TO: Yeah, she had been there for a long, long time. She was old, she had white hair, Ms. Spalding. Ms. Ward had gray hair to. They were both old. Ms. Ward was cute, she looked like a little bunny . She'd hop and go around boy she was cute. MS. Spalding was very dignified and refined.

RMM: So she was the, Ms. Spalding was also the...

TO: She was the head of the department.



RMM: Head of the department, but also the teacher....

TO: Yeah she taught art.

RMM: No, No. I mean took care of student teachers.

TO: Oh yeah. I think so, yeah.

RMM: She was up were.. with these students that came to your class.

TO: Yeah. She then when I was teaching in Ishpeming she wanted to see what I am doing.

RMM: Oh.

TO: She was real intrested. She was so good to me that's why I said she was like a mother. She was wondering if I was doing the right job.

RMM: Oh, and so she came to the...

TO: Yeah, she came to Ishpeming. She came here to talk with me.

RMM: Oh, to your home.

TO: Yeah. She was wonderful.

RMM: And what was Ms. Ward like as a teacher?

TO: Oh, she was darling. She was like a little chipmunk, she was running around like... cute as could be. She was good... she did a good job in teaching you how. One class was how to teach art, and I remeber I enjoyed that class it was really good. They were both just wonderful teachers.

RMM: Now did she teach art appreciation as well?

TO: She taught more like.. she used to teach at the what is that school called now?

RMM: Oh, the Pierce...

TO: The grade school, Pierce yeah. She taught over there to and she taught us how to teach art. That was her big thing, but Ms. Spalding you know taught art.

RMM: More the theory of art..

TO: Yeah, the theory of art, yeah. She taught art as what your going to do with it in classes you know.

RMM: Then she came and then did Ms. Ward send students to you at Ishpeming High School or was that Ms. Spalding?

TO; No, she was... what do you mean?

RMM: Did Ms. Spalding or Ms. Ward have student teachers out to your class.

TO: Oh yeah, Oh yes. I think so and they'd come.. i used to have student teachers all the time. And one time even I had two of them and I said "I wish I didn't have two." I had to write out these long reports on each one you know at the end. But I didn't want to say no if they wanted to send them to me I did. But I had one wonderful teacher, she had came from California and she was just marvelous, I was so glad to have her. She would do all kinds of extra little things and then I would have some laggards who would do only what they had to do you know. But that was interesting, I liked it.

RMM: Were there many people that you didn't promote as teachers?

TO: No, I had a hard time with some of them. I hated to give less than a C, I never did. Because I thought the poor fellow wants to get a job when he's out of school and I thought I did a lot of talking and discussing with them. And trying to explain, now do you realize what you have to do when your out in the field? You know I'd talk to them like that so I hope I did the right thing with them.